

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /112 W

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O R 261007Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 7748

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL UDORN

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

13TH ADVON UDORN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 16705

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS MARR,TH

SUBJECT THAI FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON US/THAI
RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF THE REMARKS
ON THAI/US RELATIONS OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN
ISSARANGUN NA AYUTTHAYA DURING HIS OCTOBER 25 PRESS CONFERENCE.

REPORTER: WILL YOU PLEASE MAKE A STATMENT ON OUR
POLICY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES WILL ANYTHING BE
CHANGED?

CHARUNPHAN: THE BASIC POLICY OF THAILAND OR THE THAI
GOVERNMENT IS TO IMPLEMENT GOOD FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH
ALL COUNTRIES THAT SHOW FRIENDSHIP TOWARD THAILAND.
THEREFORE NOTHING WILL BE CHANGED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN
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THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES, BECAUSE GOOD RELATIONS

HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES FOR YEARS. SHOULD YOU FEEL ANY SUSPICIONS OR DOUBTS ON ANY MATTER IN PARTICULAR I AM READY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

REPORTER: WILL A MEETING BE HELD TO CONTINUE TALKS FOR FURTHER WITHDRAWALS OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IN THAILAND, OR WILL THEY REMAIN HERE AT THEIR PRESENT STRENGTH FOR THE TIME BEING?

CHARUNPHAN: THIS IS MY DUTY AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL PROPOSE FOR MEETINGS TO BE HELD ON FURTHER WITHDRAWALS AND THEY WILL BE CONTINUED AND NOT COME TO A STANDSTILL. THE TARGET SET IS FOR WITHDRAWALS TO BE CONTINUED STEADILY UNTIL THOSE MILITARY FORCES ARE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN. THIS, HOWEVER, WILL TAKE SOME TIME BECAUSE WE MUST CONSIDER THE SITUATION AND VARIOUS NECESSITIES. I AM TRYING TO EXPLAIN THIS SO THAT ALL MASS MEDIA WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE POSSESS SOVERIGN POWERS IN FULL TO MAKE THESE MOVES. WE WILL CARRY ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR WITHDRAWALS TO BE CONTINUED STEP BY STEP. DEPENDING ON THE NECESSITY OF THE SITUATION. UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO16705
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731010/aaaaahib.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON US/THAI RELATIONS
TAGS: MARR, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005